

Newscaster

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
The Manitoba Repeater Society
The Winnipeg Seniors Citizen's Radio Club

mailing address

W.A.R.C.
Attn: Newsletter
598 St. Mary's Road
Winnipeg, MB
R2M 3L5

February 1994

WARP presents PACKET RADIO By Karl, VE4KHS

Date: February 14, 1993

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

WARC: April 9 Worked All Winnipeg Award QSO
t.b.a. Spring Flea Market
June 25,26 Field Day

WSC: Monday Computer Classes
MRS: t. b. a. Spring Annual Meeting

Other: Every Sat. & Sun. VE4TTU station in operation

Warc: Executive for 1993/94

President: Dave Panting - VE4EF
Vice-Pres: Barret Filbert - VE4ABA
Secretary: Dick Maguire - VE4HK
Treasurer: Gary Smith - VE4YH
Past Pres: Judy Norton - VE4JBN
Membership/Newscaster: Kay Quinn - VE4YF
Program Chairman: Rob Kaufman - VE4GV
Flea Market: Pat Giesbrecht - VE4PLG
Members at large: Scott Marshall - VE4WSM

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

Notes from your Editor: by Derek, VE4HAY

Welcome all XYL's. Were sorry for having to drag the OM's out of the house on this very special day, but then again, maybe this is best. At least the kids remember.

The summer is fast approaching (if you use your imagination) and with that will be a host of events, like Field Day, Marathon, ARES tests, etc.... If you are thinking of helping out in any of these, please let anyone on the executive know. I'm sure they could use the extra help. While I may not be HF qualified yet, I do know the importance of Field Day, and this year I hope that someone will step forward and head the Field Day committee. It doesn't take much time really, only a little phoning around and asking for operators.

Thanks once again go out to all those who have submitted articles again this month. I hope that we can continue on this role with all the local talent in the group. Surly there are more than the few inspiring authors out there!!

Words from the President of WARC: by Dave, VE4EF

I understand there was a good turn-out at the January meeting, including a number of new hams. Unfortunately I was unable to attend that meeting and I am looking forward to seeing you all at the next one. Thanks to Barrett VE4ABA for chairing the meeting and to Rob VE4GV for his presentation on upgrading and the current state of the hobby. One result of Rob's presentation is that there are plans underway to present code practice on VE4WPG a couple of times a week.

It was reported in the news that the Winnipeg groundhog (AKA prairie dog) did not see his shadow on

February 2, Groundhog Day. This means that antenna season is almost over and then spring will be here and you can look forward to wading through puddles and swatting mosquitoes while you do your outdoor work.

At the February 14th meeting we will be exchanging mushy Valentine's Day cards, picking up our club jackets and having a presentation on packet radio. This is a topic that will be of great interest to many of us and I'm sure we will enjoy it.

Winnipeg Senior Citizen's Radio Club. **by Martin, VE4AKA President.**

During the recent Los Angeles earthquake, the club was privileged to be of service to citizens of this city by communicating on their behalf, via a superb Canadian and US network of amateur radio operators, with loved ones unfortunate enough to experience that disaster. To be able to relay to these anxious relatives that all was well was its own heart warming reward. Fortunately, we were blessed with only good news to convey. The occasion merits the highest possible praise for the dedication, endurance, efficiency, and effectiveness of the American Net Controllers and their local support services. We should not forget also, those who planned the overall organization. Ladies and gentlemen, we salute you !

On the local front, classes in computer basics will commence on Monday, Feb., 7th. The course will cover an introduction to computers, MS-DOS, and Modems, and will lead on to other aspects such as Packet Radio. The course will last for 7-8 weeks initially with classes each Monday at 10 am. Sessions will be of one to one and a half hours. Your instructor is VE4SAI, Harsha Godivari of our club, and of Muddy Waters Computer Society. Computers will be available for instruction and practice, courtesy of Muddy Waters. Add your name to the class list on the Notice Board. (Club members only, please).

Club breakfast will, as usual, be held in the Norlander, Pembina Hwy, Feb., 10, at 9.00 am.

VE4ROY will be hosting Girl Guides of Canada visits to the club, Sat., Feb., 19, and Sun., Feb., 20, 1994, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Next Executive Board meeting, Feb., 15, 1994.

Manitoba Repeater Society **by Derek, VE4HAY**

Once again, I can report that we are slowly progressing with the repeater system. I have once again submitted the contract for tower access, now with my

initials in the proper places. Once they are approved will be able to gain access to a tower in Portage la Prairie. This will be an intermediate back to back link between VE4MAN and VE4NEP. Once installed you will be able to link these two repeaters together. If the weather warms up quickly this spring we can all look forward to this installation.

We have word from the controller supplier that a new version of the software is about to be released, and that some of our requested changes should be incorporated into this new version. If this is indeed true, this will make it very easy for the users to access the system. All that will be needed is two codes and your set. When the new software is installed, and the new link in Portage is in and tested we will be sending out a mailing to all members so that they will have the codes to access the system.

The technical committee has informed me that they now have determined the interconnect between the Palomar controllers and the old controllers still in use in the field (ie VE4WPG, VE4CDN..etc...) They hope to get these modifications done and tested in the early spring.

Elsewhere in the newscaster is a listing of all Manitoba Repeater Society members up to the time of this writing. If your name is not on the list, or the name of a fellow Amateur, please try your utmost to have your name added. The procedure is very simple, write a cheque for \$20.00 renewal (\$35.00 for first time members) and send it to MRS Membership c/o 598 St. Mary's Road Wpg, MB, R2M 3L5. We can then have your name and all others who join through out the year, added to the list.

Winnipeg Amateur Radio Packet group **by Karl, VE4KHS**

The purpose of WARP is to increase the awareness of and technical expertise of those interested in or who are currently using packet radio in the Winnipeg area. The group has published a Packet User's Guide, sales of which fund hardware purchases for new and improved Packet Radio resources in Winnipeg and surrounding area.

Also, WARP is running an informal voice net on the VE4WPG repeater, on Sunday afternoons, following the MRS net. We hope that more of you will feel free to partake in the "WARPNET." Remember, the only dumb question is one that you don't ask!

Last fall, WARP's first hardware purchases arrived: a Kantronics D410 UHF data radio, a number of Tekk UHF data radios, and a Kantronics Data Engine TNC. This

equipment will allow 9600 baud linking activity on UHF as shown in the "map" included here. Installation at the VE4PKT site, as coordinated with MDECG, will take place once warmer weather arrives.

Ever since the VE4WGW Internet Gateway went offline due to RFI problems, WARP has been working to establish a new gateway station for Winnipeg. Last week, members of WARP concluded arrangements with the University of Manitoba Amateur Radio Society (UMARS) to begin work on a new Internet Gateway system.

The new gateway will operate under the VE4UM club callsign, with equipment provided by WARP and The Muddy Waters Computer Society's "computers for charities" project. Initially, the only RF connection to the new gateway will be on 9600 baud UHF. Once linking gear is in place at VE4KV and VE4PKT, node connections from other packet user frequencies will be possible.

A 1200 baud access port for the new Gateway is pending. The main concern is that VHF packet activity might cause interference to (or be QRMed by) the VE4UM voice repeater. Watch the VE4KV BBS for bulletins and progress reports, or tune in for the Sunday afternoon "WARPNet" on VE4WPG.

Members of WARP will be making an informational presentation at the next Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club meeting on Valentine's Day, February 14, at Sturgeon Creek Collegiate. The WARC executive requested us to present a very basic "how do I get on the air, and what can I do once I'm there" kind of session. We hope to see you there!

Finally, WARP is about to release a major update to the Packet User's Guide. We have received a tremendous amount of new material from other Packet groups across Canada and the USA. Information exchange is what Ham radio is all about: WARP material is also appearing in Packet Radio publications in North America.

None of this activity would be possible without the support of those who have already purchased the WARP Packet Radio User's Guide: many thanks to all of you "Warped" folks out there! We look forward to the future expansion of Winnipeg's Packet Radio resources.

MINUTES FOR W.A.R.C.

Meeting called to order 7:42 pm, JANUARY 10, 1994, VE4ABA presiding

Each person present introduced him or herself. About 100 on hand

Minutes of previous meeting approved as published in Newscaster

Moved VE4GV, Seconded
VE4GD CARRIED

Treasurers Report

Expenses for postage, Christmas party, printing of Newscaster

Total in bank \$2958.63

Standing Committee Reports

- VE4OV re ham classes: Next set of classes begin Thursday Jan 27, and run for 10 weeks. Everyone was asked to encourage spouses, friends, relatives etc to attend classes and become hams. VE4OV also noted the RAC convention at the end of July 1994. He will be a guest speaker, and has registration forms etc.

- VE4HAY spoke re the Newscaster. He advised that we now published close to 450 copies monthly. He also encouraged all amateurs to join RAC, since that organization was trying to assist hams in Canada. For those who were interested in joining up, see Ed VE4YU who has application forms. (several members applauded the excellent quality of the Newscaster)

Derek topped off his report by stating that he was desperate for articles to publish in the Newscaster.

- VE4JR, the Section Manager for Manitoba, reported that RAC goofed. They did not publish Section Manager election notice in TCA magazine. They will be publishing information in February edition. Any member in good standing can run for SM office, by having 5 or more other members in good standing sign appropriate form.

- VE4GD stated that he had received a QSL card from an American ham. VE4GD stated that he definitely did not work that station, and speculated that someone was bootlegging his call. He requested that everyone keep their ears open for a bootlegger.

- VE4YU reported on VE4TTU, thanking the following VE4's SE, XYL, APN, GF, SN, QEW, VQ, for serving a shift at TTU. VE4YU also reported that the best way to learn CW is by monitoring W1AW. He provided photocopies of W1AW schedule for anyone who was interested.

Auditors Report

As prepared by VE4YU and VE4SN. VE4YU advised that everything appears ok as of September 30, 1993. He

made several recommendations which would make it easier for future auditors to oversee the Club's books.

VE4YU also reported that we have a strong possibility of doing a mall display at the St. Vital Shopping Center, April 23. A possible theme will be the Marconi anniversary.

There was no new business.
adjournment of business portion of meeting
VE4JR 8:00 pm

coffee break 8:00 to 8:30

during coffee break WARC sold 38 club jackets. Each member paid in full for his or her jacket, and was measured. The jackets will be completed and handed out at the February meeting. VE4YH gave a cheque for \$760.00 or \$20.00 deposit per jacket to the tailor.

Presentation:

Rob VE4GV then gave a very interesting presentation entitled "Where Do We Go From Here" He discussed the many different aspects of amateur radio, along with suggestions on how amateurs with a basic licence could upgrade by learning CW.

adjournment 1000 pm

WORKED ALL WINNIPEG AWARD QSO PARTY

By Dick, VE4HK

SATURDAY APRIL 9, 1994

The fourth annual Worked All Winnipeg Award QSO party is coming up very soon. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 9, from 9 am until 4 pm Winnipeg time. I invite all amateurs with HF privileges, and living in Winnipeg, to participate. (My definition of living in Winnipeg is... "which government gets your property taxes")

Please make time on April 9th to help out. If you can spare a few minutes in the morning, half an hour in the afternoon, or better yet, the whole day, you are more than welcome to assist. Our QSO party is becoming more popular with local hams, and those from other places, who want our lovely certificate, each year.

Even if you don't have HF privileges, no problem. Simply choose a friendly amateur who is entitled to use the HF bands, and convince him or her to take part. It is called arm-twisting, hi.

I am hoping for the most successful Worked All Winnipeg Award QSO Party, yet. If band conditions

permit, we should be more popular than ever. We will be operating on 14.250 MHz and 21.345 MHz. Our new, improved 20 meter frequency will allow American hams with lower class licences to work us to achieve their Worked All Winnipeg Award certificate.

Also, for those of us who are on HF frequency ...oops, I mean frequently, I encourage you to "talk up" the Worked All Winnipeg Award anytime you are on the air. People don't have to wait for the QSO Party to achieve their certificate. Twenty four hour service, no waiting.

The rules are as follows:

Stations within Manitoba, including the City of Winnipeg, must work at least 25 different Winnipeg stations.

Stations outside Manitoba, but within the North American continent, must work at least 15 different Winnipeg stations.

Stations outside North America must work at least 10 different Winnipeg stations.

Any band or mode may be used, but all contacts must be direct not via repeater. QSL cards are not required, but a certified copy of the log must be mailed in, along with the signatures of two other hams who have checked the log. The cost for the award is \$2.00 or 6 IRC's. Mail applications to WORKED ALL WINNIPEG AWARD, c/o Dick Maguire VE4HK, 598 St. Marys Road, Winnipeg, MB, Canada, R2M 2L5

If you have any questions, please call Dick VE4HK at home, or on 146.76 VE4CNR repeater

ATTN SNOWBIRDS

by Scott, VE4SM

Here is a great opportunity for fishing enthusiasts with a boat and R.V. A few weeks ago in Texas I met Leon Hance (W4YFZ) and his wife Bess (KC4DSG). Leon would like to fish for Pickerel/Walleye with someone in the North in the summer and in return he has a boat and R.V. Space at this home in the South.

Interested parties may contact Leon on the Family Motor Home Net (14.263Mhz) any day at 1:00 pm local time, or write him at P.O. Box 223 Elberta Al. 36530 Elberta is close to the Gulf Coast and Mobile Bay.

This should provide some very good almost year round fishing with a very knowledgeable fellow Ham.

ARE YOU LOSING YOUR ARTICLES?
by Keith, VE4BC

A suggestion that will help you locate articles you know you have, but can't find, in the pile-up of old magazines.

Create a simply database file with suggested fields as shown below. Typical data for the fields is also shown

Field Name	Typical Data
Subject:	Antennas
Location:	CQ Magazine
YY/MM:	86/06
PAGE:	88
Content Heading:	Antenna& Accessories
Remarks:	Update on G5RV

Most programs will select, sort, and print, a list which allows you to easily find the magazine or book containing the article you wish to retrieve.

MRS MEMBERS
as at January 11, 1994

The following are New members - Welcome aboard

VE3WPG	VE4DWG	VE4MUD	VE4SVB
VE4ACJ	VE4GAU	VE4PEG	VE4TK
VE4AIR	VE4GIF	VE4PIG	VE4TNC
VE4AYG	VE4HG	VE4RAY	VE4TZB
VE4BDB	VE4HGD	VE4RCW	VE4WTS
VE4BGW	VE4IAR	VE4RJB	VE4XR
VE4CAT	VE4JBR	VE4RNJ	VE4YR
VE4CFT	VE4JIT	VE4SCE	VE4ZUF
VE4CPJ	VE4LDH	VE4SIR	
VE4DAW	VE4MHZ	VE4SLB	
VE4DUG	VE4MIK	VE4SMT	

The following are Life-time members

VE4ACX	VE4JO	VE4MK	VE4RE
VE4BB	VE4JP	VE4MP	VE4SE
VE4BJ	VE4JY	VE4NI	VE4UE
VE4CR	VE4KQ	VE4NM	VE4VB
VE4ER	VE4LQ	VE4PL	VE4VH
VE4FB	VE4LU	VE4PQ	VE4WZ
VE4FH	VE4MJ	VE4QB	VE7TDA

The following are Courtesy members

VE4KB	VE4LB	VE4PH	VE4QC
VE4UB	VE4ZZZ		

The following are Re-renewal members - Welcome back

VE4AAI	VE4CZ	VE4JR	VE4SS
VE4AAK	VE4DAR	VE4KAZ	VE4ST
VE4ACA	VE4DI	VE4KEN	VE4STD
VE4ACN	VE4DLG	VE4KI	VE4STW

VE4AD	VE4DMW	VE4KP	VE4SVO
VE4ADD	VE4DR	VE4KU	VE4SX
VE4ADM	VE4DRG	VE4KX	VE4SYG
VE4ADU	VE4DSL	VE4LA	VE4TC
VE4AET	VE4DY	VE4LAR	VE4TED
VE4AFJ	VE4EF	VE4LD	VE4TEG
VE4AFL	VE4EI	VE4LEN	VE4TL
VE4AHC	VE4ELH	VE4LIN	VE4TM
VE4AHW	VE4EN	VE4LL	VE4TOE
VE4AIF	VE4EOW	VE4LOM	VE4TR
VE4AIL	VE4EPC	VE4LOU	VE4TV
VE4AIU	VE4FC	VE4LX	VE4UC
VE4AJD	VE4FN	VE4MAB	VE4UI
VE4AJG	VE4FO	VE4MAC	VE4UK
VE4AJO	VE4FR	VE4MG	VE4UM
VE4AJR	VE4FW	VE4MGL	VE4UP
VE4AJT	VE4GAP	VE4MPB	VE4UU
VE4AKJ	VE4GC	VE4MU	VE4VEB
VE4AKM	VE4GD	VE4MY	VE4VF
VE4AKQ	VE4GHR	VE4MZ	VE4VM
VE4AMN	VE4GLR	VE4NE	VE4VQ
VE4AMY	VE4GLS	VE4NF	VE4VZ
VE4ANA	VE4GM	VE4NQ	VE4WA
VE4ANG	VE4GN	VE4NR	VE4WC
VE4AP	VE4GO	VE4ON	VE4WDB
VE4APN	VE4GRY	VE4OPC	VE4WK
VE4AQ	VE4GV	VE4OV	VE4WR
VE4AS	VE4GZ	VE4PD	VE4WS
VE4ASK	VE4HD	VE4PI	VE4WSM
VE4AX	VE4HE	VE4PLG	VE4WU
VE4BAR	VE4HF	VE4PT	VE4XF
VE4BEV	VE4HK	VE4PV	VE4XOR
VE4BOB	VE4HO	VE4QA	VE4XQ
VE4BW	VE4HR	VE4QEW	VE4XS
VE4CAQ	VE4IF	VE4RBF	VE4XYL
VE4CBG	VE4II	VE4RD	VE4YD
VE4CBK	VE4IQ	VE4RJH	VE4YF
VE4CCO	VE4IT	VE4ROB	VE4YH
VE4CD	VE4IX	VE4RV	VE4YU
VE4CIS	VE4JBN	VE4RY	VE4YZ
VE4COZ	VE4JCM	VE4RZ	VE4ZF
VE4CPU	VE4JDM	VE4SET	VE4ZN
VE4CSN	VE4JGF	VE4SG	VE4ZO
VE4CY	VE4JHD	VE4SN	

Late Re-renewals

VE4MSE	VE4AHN	VE4JX	VE4TSM
VE4RH	VE4TY	VE4YO	VE4HAY
VE4GLH	VE4KHS	VE4MJM	VE4XTR
VE4NGM	VE4JOP	VE4AEO	VE4LI
VE4LDI	VE4MAR	VE4TQ	VE4UA
VE4GX	VE4AND	VE4KEF	VE4OKP

Hints & Kinks for Newscaster **by Ralph, VE4RY**

Here's a quick and easy way to confirm your metal VHF or UHF antenna is cut to the right length.

Get a long piece of dowel or plastic and insert a small piece of steel or a screw in one end. Then, while keying the transmitter and watching an SWR bridge or field strength meter touch the metal on the end of the dowel to the end of the element you are testing.

If there is a degradation, the element is probably the right length. If the reading(s) improve, the element length is too short for the applied frequency.

Note: You can 'lengthen' tubing by screwing an appropriately sized steel bolt in the end.

PACKET GATEWAY TO RETURN **by Scott, VE4SLB**

Original from VE4SLB to WARP@
Hello, All:

After a 45 minute discussion, UMARS unanimously passed the motion to set up the packet gateway on their premises. Looks like the balls rolling now!

Thanks to Jay, Doug, Karl, Al, Jim, Michael, WARP, MDECG, UMARS, and Muddy Waters for an excellent team effort! We all owe these people a round of applause! "Ad Astra" (L. "to the stars")

QRP - The SEQUEL **by Tom, VE4AKI**

Have you been thinking about giving this QRP a try? Do you want to know more about how to get started? Then please read on.

The best band to get started with QRP is the 30 meter band. This band is open around the clock to North America and often to other parts of the world at optimum times. With a Maximum power limit on the band of 250W., your QRP signal stand a much better chance of being heard. Putting up a horizontal dipole, sloper or ground mounted vertical is easily accomplished on the average city lot. Many multi-band antennas work well on 30 meters.

Spend a bit of time listening on the band to get the feel for it's characteristics. I have found that late afternoon and early evening seem to be optimum for both local and DX contacts. Don't ignore the early morning hours if you can work it into your schedule.

For your first few contacts try calling CQ or other stations with an output power of 25W. Once you get your feet wet at this level cut your power to 10W., and make a few more contacts. By this time you will have developed a feel for this band. You will have found as well that you can make and contain contact with little difficulty at this power level. Now comes big time QRP.

From your experience so far pick a time when you have favourable propagation and little interruption. Drop your power to 5W. and check the band from 10.100 to 10.125. You will notice pockets of activity every few kilohertz. Listen carefully around 10.106 as this is where many QRPers hang out. Listen for a station calling CQ in the clear and at a sending speed you are comfortable with, When the station signs call him/her at a speed no faster than you are good at copying. End your call with /QRP, then listen carefully. If he/she call CQ again don't give up, call again. Often the station called is not listening for weaker signals, so try a few times. If you get no response listen around for other signals and try again. It is usually more productive to call other stations when you operate QRP.

You may wish to try calling CQ. I suggest you initially call CQ on popular QRP frequencies such as 3560, 7040, 10.106, 14.060 and 21.060 Mhz. You are more likely to find stations listening for weaker QRP signals on these frequencies. Keep you CQ's Short say 3x3 (ie 3 CQ's and you call 3 times) with a /QRP added. Be patient, you have to work a little bit harder when you are at a 10 - 12 DB disadvantage. A bit of persistence will be rewarded with success and the satisfaction the results from this experience.

Share your experiences in operating QRP with your contacts. If they are also QRP ask about their equipment and antennas. Their experience can be used to point the way to maximize your QRP station and it's operation. Take satisfaction in being able to make contacts with minimum power. Accepting this challenge will improve your operating skills and further advance your understanding of H.F. propagation.

You may wish to try real low power operating (ie. less than one watt). This is often called milliwattling. your rig may be capable of operating at this level but measuring output power at this level accurately is often impossible with most power meters. If you would like to

try your hand at a simple and inexpensive project, to enhance your QRP operation, I will soon outline a simple QRP wattmeter. Easy to build and calibrate it makes a good first project in the meantime good luck and see you on the bands.

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (A.R.E.S)
by Don, (VE4DWG)

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (A.R.E.S.) and the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization (E.M.O.) have signed an agreement known as a "Memorandum of Understanding" at a December 6th luncheon meeting hosted by EMO at the Manitoba Legislature.

At the December meeting, ARES Section Coordinator Rod Kischook (VE4TM) met with Deputy Minister of Government Services Hugh Eliasson (responsible for The Emergency Measures Act) to discuss final details of the Memorandum of Understanding which was later signed.

This document, the result of dozens of hours of research and meetings by EMO and ARES, confirms that the Manitoba Government recognizes the valuable resource of Amateur Radio in support of communications in disaster situations, and further reflects on the high degree of skills possessed by amateur radio operators.

" This Memorandum of Understanding confirms that, on behalf of the government of Manitoba, the Manitoba Amateur Radio Emergency Services will:

- (a) Provide staff trained in emergency communications to assist the overall Provincial response during a declaration of emergency.
- (b) Provide assistance to communities in developing and implementing their emergency communications plan.
- (c) Provide equipment and operators, if requested, to emergency site responders."

We only have to turn to any of the ham publications to see evidence of the positive impact amateur radio has made in various North American emergency situations in recent years: restoring vital communications during and in the aftermath of disasters such as Hurricane Hugo, Hurricane Andrew, the midwest USA flooding, and most recently; the L.A earthquake.

Maybe what not many of us know, is that amateur radio was involved to fair amount in recent Manitoba events such as the Swan River region flooding, and the Oakville train derailment.

To borrow a popular phrase from our friends at EMO "...it can happen here, plan for tomorrow, today!"

Should any Manitoba Amateur Radio Operators like further information on ARES, you are invited to contact Rod (VE4TM).

QUICK NOTES:

There is a new net on 2 meters, that is geared towards the Seniors crowd. This net is held each weekday morning at 9:00 am local time on the VE4WPG repeater. I have also heard that they call themselves the Old Timers Net, although I'm sure that if us poor working stiff's get sick one day and can't make it to work that they would let you join in on all the fun etc..

There will be a CW tutor net established in Winnipeg. This net is intended to help those who are thinking of upgrading their licence to the 5 or 12 words per minute CW endorsement. It is also for those who know CW, and want to come back up to speed. It is planned that this net will happen one hour before the Manitoba Repeater Society's bi-weekly net on the VE4WPG repeater system. It is not known yet which day(s) this will be on. Please listen to the MRS net for a start date. The CW will be sent using the Farnsworth method at about 15 WPM with spacing of various lengths. Cypher groups may be sent, and the text will be placed on the VE4KV packet BBS to verify your copy of the CW. The Winnipeg DX group who is sponsoring these sessions would like to have check in's before the start to make sure that someone is listening at the other end. Please stay tune for more details.

For those who ordered Club jackets at last months WARC meeting, they should be available for pick-up at the February meeting.

Just a note, I hope you all remember that the next WARC meeting is on Valentines Days, and if you plan to attend the meeting, make sure that you have your box of chocolates before the meeting for your XYL or OM, as the stores will be closed after the meeting.

The Internet Gateway is being installed again at the University of Manitoba. This station will operate on 441.050 Mhz Simplex at 9600 baud. For those who do not have tnc of this speed, access will be thru VE4PKT at 1200 baud on 145.070. The call sign and designator has not been decided as of this date. The radio is a Tec t-micro with 2 watts output into a 4 bay co-linear antenna with 9db gain off the front. 6db on the sides, 3db on the back. Protocols will be AX25 Netrom, TCP/IP as well as others. Please listen to the WARP net on Sundays for the start date of this gateway, as well as for more information.